

CURRICULUM VITAE**LAURA CHRISTINA ORNELAS, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor
 Department of Psychology, the University of New Mexico
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EDUCATION and TRAINING

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
 Postdoctoral Research Associate, May 2018 – July 31st, 2024
 Baylor University, Waco, TX
 Ph.D. Psychology, May 2018
 Baylor University, Waco, TX
 M.A. Psychology, May 2015
 Southwestern University, Georgetown TX
 B.A. Psychology, May 2012

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico – Albuquerque, NM Department of Psychology	August 2024
Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, Supervising PI – Dr. Joyce Besheer	May 2018- Present
Graduate Research Assistant, Baylor University – Waco, TX Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Supervising PI – Dr. N. Bradley Keele	August 2012 – May 2018
Departmental Student Assistant – Georgetown, TX Department of Psychology	2010 – 2012

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, Supervising PI – Dr. Joyce Besheer	2018- July 31, 2024
Graduate Student, Baylor University – Waco, TX Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Supervising PI – Dr. N. Bradley Keele	2015 – 2018
Graduate Student, Baylor University – Waco, TX Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Supervising PI – Dr. Jim Diaz-Granados and Dr. Douglas B. Matthews	2012 – 2015
Department Student Assistant – Georgetown, TX Department of Psychology, Supervising PI – Dr. Fay A. Guarraci	2010 - 2012

GRANT FUNDING**Active**

Corticolimbic Circuitry in Adaptive Stress Coping Behavior and Subsequent Alcohol Drinking
 NIH/NIAAA, K99AA029730
 Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC)
 08/01/2022 – 7/31/2024
Role: Principal Investigator

Completed

Institutional NRSA Training Grant
 NIH/NIAAA, T32AA007573
 Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, UNC-CH; Contact PI: Dr. Donita Robinson
 07/01/2021 – 06/30/2022
 Role: Trainee, postdoctoral support
Characterization of alcohol self-administration following predator odor exposure: relevance to PTSD
 NIH/NIAAA, R01AA026537-S (Diversity Supplement); PI: Dr. Joyce Besheer
 09/01/2018 – 6/30/21
 Role: Trainee, postdoctoral support

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ornelas, L. C., & Besheer, J.** (2024). Predator Odor Stress Reactivity, Alcohol Drinking and the Endocannabinoid System. (Accepted; In press). *Neurobiology of Stress*.

2. **Ornelas, L. C.**, Fish, E. W., Dooley, J. C., Carroll, M., Parnell, S. E., & Besheer, J. (2024). The impact of prenatal alcohol, synthetic cannabinoid and co-exposure on behavioral adaptations in adolescent offspring and alcohol self-administration in adulthood. *Neurotoxicology and teratology*, 102, 107341.
3. **Ornelas, L. C.**, & Besheer, J. (2024). Predator Odor Stressor, 2,3,5-Trimethyl-3-Thiazoline (TMT): Assessment of Stress Reactive Behaviors During an Animal Model of Traumatic Stress in Rats. *Current protocols*, 4(1), e967.
4. **Ornelas, L. C.**, Boero, G., Van Voorhies, K., O'Buckley, T. K., Besheer, J., & Morrow, A. L. (2023). Pharmacological administration of 3 α , 5 α -THP into the nucleus accumbens core increases 3 α , 5 α -THP expression and reduces alcohol self-administration. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 47(3), 459-469.
5. Tyler, R. E., Bluitt, M. N., Van Voorhies, K., **Ornelas, L. C.**, Weinberg, B. Z., & Besheer, J. (2022). Predator odor (TMT) exposure potentiates interoceptive sensitivity to alcohol and increases GABAergic gene expression in the anterior insular cortex and nucleus accumbens in male rats. *Alcohol*, 104, 1-11.
6. **Ornelas, L. C.**, Van Voorhies, K., & Besheer, J. (2021). The role of the nucleus reuniens in regulating contextual conditioning with the predator odor TMT in female rats. *Psychopharmacology*, 238(12), 3411-3421.
7. **Ornelas, L. C.**, Tyler, R. E., Irukulapati, P., Paladugu, S., & Besheer, J. (2021). Increased alcohol self-administration following exposure to the predator odor TMT in active coping female rats. *Behavioural brain research*, 402, 113068.
8. Tyler, R. E., Weinberg, B. Z., Lovelock, D. F., **Ornelas, L. C.**, & Besheer, J. (2020). Exposure to the predator odor TMT induces early and late differential gene expression related to stress and excitatory synaptic function throughout the brain in male rats. *Genes, Brain and Behavior*, 19(8), e12684.
9. **Ornelas, L. C.**, & Keele, N. B. (2018). Sex differences in the physiological response to ethanol of rat basolateral amygdala neurons following single-prolonged stress. *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*, 12, 219.
10. Matthews, D. B., Novier, A., Diaz-Granados, J. L., Van Skike, C. E., **Ornelas, L.C.**, & Mittleman, G. (2017). Impact of adolescent alcohol use across the lifespan: Long-lasting tolerance to high-dose alcohol coupled with potentiated spatial memory impairments to moderate-dose alcohol. *Alcohol*, 61, 33-42.
11. Novier A., **Ornelas L.C.** Diaz-Granados, J.L., & Matthews, D.B. (2016). Differences in Behavioral Responding in Adult and Aged Rats Following Chronic Ethanol Exposure. *Alcohol Clinical Experimental Research*, 40(7), 1462-72.
12. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Novier, A., Van Skike, C.E., Diaz-Granados, J.L., & Matthews, D.B. (2014). The Effects of Acute Ethanol on Motor Impairments in Adolescent, Adult, and Aged Rats. *Alcohol*, 49(2), 121-126.
13. Thibodeau, R.B., **Ornelas, L.C.**, Romero, J., Memos, N., Scheible, M., Avila, A., Schumacher, A., Zimmerman, K., Cuenod, B.A., Frohardt, R.J., & Guarraci, F. A. (2012). Acute withdrawal but not long-term withdrawal from methamphetamine affects sexual behavior in female rats. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*, 103(4), 701-709.
14. Winland, C., Haycox, C., Bolton, J.L., Jampana, S., Oakley, B.J., Ford, B., **Ornelas, L.**, Burbey, A., Marquette, A., Frohardt, R.J., & Guarraci, F.A. (2011). Methamphetamine enhances sexual behavior in female rats. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, 98(4), 575-582.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS)

1. Ornelas, L.C., Joao, L.M., Sizer, S.E., McElligott, Z.A., Besheer, J. (2024) Predator Odor Stress Reactivity, Alcohol Drinking and the Endocannabinoid System. Research Society on Alcohol, June 2024, Minneapolis, MN.
2. Ornelas, L.C., Joao, L.M., Besheer, J. (2024) The Role of Endocannabinoids within Corticolimbic Regions in Adaptive Stress Coping Behavior and Implications for Subsequent Alcohol Drinking. GRS/GRC Alcohol, February 2024, Galveston, TX.
3. Ornelas, L.C., Besheer, J. (2024) The Role of Endocannabinoids within Corticolimbic Regions in Adaptive Stress Coping Behavior and Implications for Subsequent Alcohol Drinking. Winter Conference on Brain Research, Breckenridge, CO, January 2024.
4. Ornelas, L.C., Besheer, J. (2023) Corticolimbic circuitry and the role of endocannabinoids in adaptive stress coping behavior and implication for subsequent alcohol drinking. National Hispanic Science Network, September 2023, Washington, D.C.
5. Ornelas, L.C., Besheer, J. (2023) The Role of Endocannabinoids within Corticolimbic Regions in Adaptive Stress Coping Behavior and Implications for Subsequent Alcohol Drinking. GRS/GRC Cannabinoid Function in the CNS, July 2023, Castelldefels, Spain.
6. Ornelas, L.C., Besheer, J. (2023) Corticolimbic circuitry and the role of endocannabinoids in adaptive stress coping behavior and implication for subsequent alcohol drinking. Research Society on Alcohol, June 2023, Bellevue, WA.
7. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Besheer, J. (2023) Corticolimbic circuitry and the role of endocannabinoids in adaptive stress coping behavior and implication for subsequent alcohol drinking. Alcoholism and Stress: A Framework for Future Treatment Strategies, International Congress on Alcoholism and Stress, May 2023, Volterra, Italy.
8. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Voorhies, K.J., Liu, W., Tyler, R.E., Besheer, J. (2022) Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Corticolimbic Activity and the Role of Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors. GRS/GRC Alcohol and the Nervous System, October 2022, Oxnard, CA.
9. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Voorhies, K.J., Liu, W., Tyler, R.E., Besheer, J. (2022) Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Corticolimbic Activity and the Role of Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors. Research Society on Alcoholism, June 2022, Orlando, FL.

10. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Voorhies, K.J., Liu, W., Tyler, R.E., Besheer, J. (2022) Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Corticolimbic Activity and the Role of Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors. Stress Neurobiology Workshop, May 2022, Columbia, SC.
11. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Fish, E.W., Dooley, J.C., Carrol, M., Parnell, S.E. & Besheer, J. (2021) Effects of Prenatal and Synthetic Cannabinoid Exposure on Corticosterone, Behavioral Responses and Alcohol Self-Administration in Male and Female Adolescent Offspring. Cannabinoid Function in the CNS: Gordon Research Seminar & Conference. November, 2021, Ventura, CA.
12. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Voorhies, K.J., Tyler, R.E., Besheer, J. (2021). Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Recruitment of Corticolimbic Activation in Stress Reactive Behaviors. NIDA/NIAAA/NIMH Diversity Supplement Professional Development Workshop. August 26-27th, Virtual.
13. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Voorhies, K.J., Tyler, R.E., Besheer, J. (2021). Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Recruitment of Corticolimbic Activation in Stress Reactive Behaviors. Research Society on Alcoholism, Virtual Poster Session: June 2021
14. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Voorhies, K.J., Besheer, J. (2020). The Effects of Pharmacological Inactivation of the Nucleus Reunions during Predator Odor Exposure on Contextual-Induced Stress Memory. American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Virtual poster, Dec. 2020.
3. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Tyler, R.E., Irukulapati, P.L., Paladugu, S., Liu, J., Weinberg, B.Z., & Besheer, J. (2020). Predator Odor Stress Produces Sex-Dependent Increases in Alcohol Self-Administration. Research Society on Alcoholism, New Orleans, LA. *Cancelled-COVID-19; Virtual Poster Session: June 2020*
4. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Tyler, R.E., Irukulapati, P.L., Paladugu, S., Liu, J., Weinberg, B.Z., & Besheer, J. (2020). Predator Odor Stress Produces Sex-Dependent Increases in Alcohol Self-Administration. NIDA/NIAAA/NIMH Diversity Supplement Professional Development Workshop. April 30th – May 1st. *Cancelled- COVID19*.
5. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Tyler, R.E. & Besheer, J. (2020). The Effects of Intermittent Predator Odor Exposure on Stress-Reactive Behaviors in Alcohol Naïve and Alcohol History Rats. Alcohol and the Nervous System: Gordon Research Seminar & Conference, Galveston, TX.
6. **Ornelas, L.C.** & Besheer, J. (2019). Pharmacological Inactivation of the Nucleus Reunions during Predator Odor Exposure and Context Re-exposure. Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, IL.
7. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Fish, E.W., Dooley, J.C., Parnell, S.E. & Besheer, J. (2019) Effects of Prenatal and Synthetic Cannabinoid Exposure on Corticosterone, Behavioral Responses and Alcohol Self-Administration in Male and Female Adolescent Offspring. Research Society on Alcoholism, Minneapolis, MN.
8. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Garcia-Baza, A., & Besheer, J. (2019). The Effects of Restraint and Predator Odor Stress on Anxiety-Like Behavior and Alcohol Self-Administration in Male and Female Rats. Research Society on Alcoholism, Minneapolis, MN.
9. Garcia-Baza, A., **Ornelas, L.C.**, & Besheer, J. (2018). Effects of Restraint Stress and Predator Odor Exposure on Anxiety and Alcohol Self-Administration in Female Rats. Summer Undergraduate Pipeline Research Symposium, Chapel Hill, NC
10. **Ornelas, L.C.** & Keele, N.B. (2018). Sex Differences in Ethanol-Induced Inhibition of Hyperpolarization-Activated Current and Excitability of Amygdala Neurons after Traumatic Stress. Research Society on Alcoholism, San Diego, CA.
11. **Ornelas, L.C.**, McReynolds, M.L., & Keele, N.B. (2017). Single-Prolonged Stress and Ethanol Contribute to Basolateral Amygdala Excitability Differently in Male and Female Rats. Society for Neuroscience, Washington D.C.
12. **Ornelas, L.C.**, McReynolds, M.L., & Keele, N.B. (2017). Sex Differences in Basolateral Amygdala Excitability Following Single-Prolonged Stress. Society for Neuroscience, Washington D.C.
13. McReynolds, M.L., **Ornelas, L.C.**, & Keele, N.B. (2017). Adult and Early Life Stress Impair Extinction Learning and Memory, and Change GluA1 and PSD-95 Expression in the Infralimbic and Prelimbic Cortex but Not the Amygdala. Society for Neuroscience, Washington D.C.
14. **Ornelas, L.C.**, McReynolds, M.L., & Keele, N.B. (2017). Ethanol Increases Action Potential Accommodation and Inhibits Hyperpolarization-Activated Current in BLA Neurons from both Male and Female Rats. Research Society on Alcoholism, Denver, CO.
15. Keele, N.B., McReynolds, M.L., & **Ornelas, L.C.** (2016). Acute Stress Increases GluA1 Expression in mPFC, but not the Amygdala, in Adult Rats. Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.
16. Novier, A., **Ornelas, L.C.**, Diaz-Granados, J.L., & Matthews, D.B. (2015). Age-Related Differences in Ethanol Withdrawal, Withdrawal-Induced Anxiety, Cognition, and Response to Allopregnanolone. Research Society on Alcoholism, San Antonio, TX.
17. Novier, A., **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Skike, C.E., Diaz-Granados, J.L., & Matthews, D.B. (2014). Baylor longitudinal study: The effects of chronic intermittent ethanol during adolescence and acute ethanol on motor and cognitive performance. Research Society on Alcoholism, Bellevue, WA.
18. **Ornelas, L.C.**, Novier, A., Van Skike, C.E., Diaz-Granados, J.L., & Matthews, D.B. (2014). The effects of acute ethanol on motor impairments in adolescent, adult, and aged Rats. Research Society on Alcoholism, Bellevue, WA.

19. Novier, A., **Ornelas, L.C.**, Van Skike, C.E., Diaz-Granados, J.L., & Matthews, D.B. (2013). The effects of chronic intermittent ethanol and acute ethanol on motor and cognitive performance across the lifespan. Research Society on Alcoholism, Orlando, FL.

INVITED LECTURES AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Predator Odor Stress Reactivity, Alcohol Drinking and the Endocannabinoid System <i>Early Career Research Presentation, Research Day, UNC Department of Psychology</i>	May 2024
The Role of Corticolimbic Circuitry and Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors and Implications for Subsequent Alcohol Drinking; <i>Seminar Talk, UNC Behavioral & Integrative Neuroscience. Department of Psychology & Neuroscience</i>	2023
Corticolimbic Circuitry and the Role of Endocannabinoids in Adaptive Stress Coping Behavior and Implications for Subsequent Alcohol Drinking; <i>Data Blitz, National Hispanic Science Network.</i>	2023
Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Corticolimbic Activity and Role of Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors; <i>BCAS UNC Seminar.</i>	2023
Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Corticolimbic Activity and Role of Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors; <i>Invited Postdoctoral Seminar Series, LSUHSC.</i>	2022
Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Corticolimbic Activity and Role of Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors; <i>GRC Alcohol and the Nervous System. Oxnard, CA.</i>	2022
Postdoctoral Award for Research Excellence presentation, <i>Awards Ceremony</i> University of North Carolina Research	2022
Corticolimbic activity and the role of endocannabinoids in modulating stress reactive behaviors and subsequent alcohol drinking. The Role of Stress and Stress Systems in Alcohol Drinking Session, <i>International Drug Abuse Research Society. Nice, France</i>	2022
Stress Reactivity and Alcohol Drinking: Corticolimbic Activity and Role of Endocannabinoids in Modulating Stress Reactive Behaviors. The Role of Cannabinoids in Alcohol Use Disorders across the Lifespan Symposium. <i>Research Society on Alcoholism, Orlando, FL.</i>	2022
Impact of Prenatal Alcohol and Synthetic Cannabinoid Exposure in Male and Female Adolescent Offspring and Alcohol Self-Administration in Adulthood. <i>Gordon Research Seminar, Cannabinoid Function in the CNS - Cannabinoid Signaling: An Avenue from Molecules to Therapeutic Targets. Ventura, CA.</i>	2021
Stress reactivity and alcohol drinking: recruitment of corticolimbic activation in stress reactive behaviors. <i>Invited Postdoctoral Seminar Series, Department of Pharmacology, Vanderbilt University.</i>	2021
Impact of Prenatal Alcohol and Synthetic Cannabinoid Exposure in Male and Female Adolescent Offspring and Alcohol Self-Administration in Adulthood. Double Jeopardy: Effects of Prenatal Exposure to Ethanol and Cannabis Symposium. <i>Research Society on Alcoholism (Virtual).</i>	2021
Sex Differences in Ethanol-Induced Inhibition of Hyperpolarization-Activated Current and Excitability of Amygdala Neurons after Traumatic Stress, <i>Dissertation Defense, Baylor University;</i>	2018
Sex Differences in Amygdala Neurophysiology Following Acute Ethanol and Stress <i>Dissertation Prospectus, Baylor University</i>	2016
Amygdala Neurophysiology Following Acute Ethanol and Stress <i>Continuing Education Unit, the Mind Institute at Seton Hospital, Austin, TX</i>	2016
The Effects of Acute Ethanol on Motor Impairments in Adolescent, Adult, and Aged Rats <i>Master's Thesis Defense, Baylor University</i>	2014
The Effects of Acute Ethanol on Motor Impairments in Adolescent, Adult, and Aged Rats <i>Colloquium Series, Baylor University</i>	2014

AWARDS

ACNP URM Near-Peer Mentorship Program, Mentee	2023-2024
Travel Award, National Hispanic Science Network Conference; Washington, D.C.	2023
Travel Award, International Congress on Alcoholism and Stress; Volterra, Italy	2023
Postdoctoral Award for Research Excellence, UNC Research	2022
International Drug Abuse Research Society Travel Award	2022
Outstanding Postdoctoral Poster Presentation, Stress Neurobiology Workshop, Columbia, SC	2022
National Scholars Program (NSP), Associate, Society for Neuroscience	2020-2022
Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority (CSURM) Fellowship	2020
Gordon Research Conference on Alcohol and the Nervous System	
Trainee Professional Development Award, Society for Neuroscience	2019
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory: Neuroscience of Addiction Course, National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)	2019
Junior Investigator Travel Award, Research Society on Alcoholism	2019, 2022
Student Merit Award, Research Society on Alcoholism	2013-2014; 2017-2018
Graduate Research Travel Award, Baylor University	2013-2017
Departmental Travel Award, Psychology and Neuroscience, Baylor University	2013-2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gross Neuroanatomy Lab, UNC Neuroscience Curriculum	2018-2021
Structural and Functional Neuroanatomy Lecture- Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD)	2019, 2021
Neuropharmacology, Guest Lecture, Baylor Department of Psychology and Neuroscience	2017 (3 weeks)
Clinical Neuroscience (Neuroanatomy) Lab TA, Baylor Department of Psychology and Neuroscience	2014-2018
Graduate Level Neuroanatomy Laboratory, Baylor Department of Psychology and Neuroscience	2015
Learning and Behavior Laboratory, Baylor Department of Psychology and Neuroscience	2012-2014

MENTORSHIPUniversity of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Partnerships to Enhance Alcohol Research across NCCU and UNC (PEAR-NC) Program	Summer 2023
Carolina Summer Fellowship Program; supervising mentor to Lafilissa Joao (NCCU)	
Expanded Mentorship Program, Research Society on Alcoholism	2021-present
Mentor, USA Brain Bee, University of Maryland School of Dentistry	Spring 2021
Carolina Assisting in Development and Mentoring an Innovative Research Experience in Science (ADMIREs) Program; Postdoc Mentor, UNC – Chapel Hill	2019-2020
UNC Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program: Postdoc Research Advisor	2019
Mentee: Ben Weinberg	

Baylor University

Invited speaker, Women in Science and Engineering, American Medical Women's Association	2018
Invited speaker, Graduate Student Panel, "Introduction to Neuroscience and Potential Careers"	2015, 2016
Invited speaker, Nu Rho Psi, "Life in Graduate School"	2016
Invited speaker, Graduate student Panel, "Graduate School vs. Medical School"	2016
Baylor Undergraduate Research in Science and Technology (BURST)	
Baylor Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program, Graduate Mentor, Graduate Student Association	2014 - 2018
Invited speaker, Baylor Neuroscience Society, "Life in Graduate School"	2013
Discussant, Psi Chi, Graduate Student Panel, "Information Session on Graduate School", Southwestern University	2013
Invited speaker, Psi Chi, "Graduate School Information Session", Baylor University	2012

LAB MENTORSHIP/SUPERVISION**Undergraduate Students, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill**

2018	Abigail Garcia-Baza
2019	Jacob Dooley (Graduate School – NC State)
2019	Ben Weinberg
2019	Sudheesha Paladugu
2019	Preethi Irukulapati
2019	Jiaqi Liu
2020	Megan Carroll (Graduate School – Wake Forest)
2023	Lafilissa Joao (NCCU)

Undergraduate Students, Baylor University

2012	Victoriano Valdez (McGovern Medical School, University of Texas Health Science Center Houston [UTHSCH])
2013	Fabiola Righi (University of North Texas Health Science Center)
2014	Jordan Mar (Baylor College of Medicine)

2015 Min Yi Don (UTHSCH)
 2015 Aleeza Stephens (UTHSCSA)
 2015 Katherine Winters (University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston [UTMB])
 2015 Cody Teleki (UTMB)
 2016 Jack Olmstead (University of California San Diego, School of Medicine)
 2017 Alan Le Grice
 2017 Greeshma Chilukuri (University of Illinois, School of Medicine)
 2017 Jessica Singh
 2018 Ericka Coronado

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives, Service, Outreach

Outreach Committee, Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies UNC Chapel Hill, School of Medicine 2018-2024
 Diversity Committee, Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, UNC Chapel Hill, School of Medicine 2020-2024
 Issues of Diversity and Inclusion in the Alcohol Field and Biomedical Sciences, Discussion Leader 2022
GRS Alcohol and the Nervous System, Oxnard. CA
 Peer Group Research on Mentoring Scientists Underrepresented in Biomedical Research, UNC – Chapel Hill 2020
 Diversity Professional Advancement Community, UNC- Chapel Hill 2018 - 2022
 UNC Science and Math Achievement and Resourcefulness Track (SMART) Mentor 2018
 Mentee: Abigail Garcia-Baza

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National Hispanic Science Network 2023-present
 The American Society for Cell Biology, NIAAA K99/R00 MOSIAC Scholar 2022-2027
 Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Education Committee: Post-doctoral Representative Member 2020-2023
 GRS/GRC Cannabinoid 2023, Discussion Leader 2023

SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH

Human Brain & Robo-Brain Activities, Museum of Life + Science, Durham, NC 2023
 “Imposter Syndrome”, UNC SOM Psychiatry DEI Blog 2022
 “Alcohol and the Brain: Perspectives from Neuroscientists”, Poe Center for Health Education, *Virtual* 2022
 Carpe Diem – Collegiate Alcohol Education, Speaker, UNC Chapel Hill 2021-2022
 STEMville Science Spectacular, Morehead Planetarium & Science Center 2022
 Brain Awareness Week, Museum of Life + Science, Durham, NC 2022
 Virtual Brain Week Lab@Home, Museum of Life + Science, Durham, NC 2021
 “Science of Fear”, Museum of Life + Science, Durham, NC 2020, 2022
 “Alcohol and the Brain II: Perspectives from Neuroscientists”, Poe Center for Health Education, Raleigh, NC 2019
 “Alcohol and the Brain: Perspectives from Neuroscientists”, Poe Center for Health Education, Raleigh, NC 2019
 “Amazing Memory”, Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies Outreach, Museum of Life and Science, Durham, NC 2019
 UNC Science Expo, Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies Outreach, UNC Chapel Hill 2018
 Brain Awareness Week, Mayborn Museum, Waco, TX 2017
 Sic ‘Em Science Day, Mayborn Museum, Waco, TX 2017

UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Chair of the Academic Committee, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience 2014 - 2015
 Graduate Student Association, Baylor University